

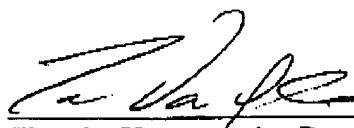
Docket No. UF-164D2  
Application Serial No. 09/827,117

with all four idiotypic determinants. In light of the foregoing distinctions, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103, as obvious over Silvestris et al, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,096,704 ('704 patent). Applicant reiterates the remarks made above in response to the 102 rejection. Applicant points out that the '704 patent does not cure the deficiencies of the Silvestris reference. The '704 patent neither discloses or suggests the use of a composition that includes anti-idiotypic antibodies specific to the 16/6 idio type. Thus, the cited references fail to establish a prima facie case of obviousness in view of the lacking disclosure. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC § 103 rejection.

All grounds for rejection or objection having been addressed and overcome herein, it is respectfully urged that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that there remain valid grounds on which any of the claims as herein amended may be rejected, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be accorded the courtesy of a telephonic interview to address and overcome any such remaining grounds for rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Marked-up version of Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (amended)

1. A method for treating a patient suffering from an autoimmune disorder said method comprising administering an effective amount of an antibody composition, wherein said antibody composition comprises anti-idiotypic antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, which can bind to and inhibit self reactive pathogenic autoantibodies present in the patient, and wherein said antibody composition is immunoreactive with idiotypes F4, 3I, 8.12, and 16/6 anti-DNA antibody determinants.

Claim 2 (amended)

2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disorder is [characterized] symptomized by the destruction of patients' cells by autoantibodies.

Claim 3 (amended):

3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said anti-idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present or antibodies associated with [an autoimmune disease selected from the group comprising] systemic lupus erythematosus[, masthenia gravis, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura].

Please cancel claims 4 and 5, without prejudice.

Please cancel claims 8-17, without prejudice.